

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of claims

1-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Previously presented) A method of delivering a composition to a lignocellulosic substrate, the method comprising at least the steps of:

- a. heating a target zone of the substrate using radio frequency energy or microwave energy, and
- b. applying a composition to a surface of the substrate comprising or immediately adjacent to the target zone;

wherein the lignocellulosic substrate is kiln dried and the composition is at a temperature below that of the target zone of the substrate.

33. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the substrate is high temperature kiln dried.

34. (Currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the substrate has an initial moisture content of less than substantially 15% ~~or below~~.

35. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the substrate is lumber.

36. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the frequency of the radio frequency energy is substantially 100MHz or below.

37. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 36 wherein the frequency of the radio frequency energy is from substantially 27 MHz to substantially 40MHz.

38. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the target zone of the substrate is heated to a temperature such that there is a temperature differential of at least approximately 80 degrees Celsius between the target zone and the composition at the time of application.

39. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 38, wherein the temperature differential is at least approximately 100 degrees Celsius.

40. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the composition is applied at ambient temperature.

41. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the target zone comprises a volume of the substrate including an area of the surface of the substrate to a depth of between substantially 0.1 cm and substantially 4 cm.

42. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the target zone of the substrate is heated and held at an elevated temperature for a period of time prior to application of the composition.

43. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 42, wherein the substrate is held at an elevated temperature for a period of time sufficient to heat substantially the whole target zone to a substantially uniform temperature.

44. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 42, wherein the period is a time sufficient to sterilise at least the target zone of the substrate.

45. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the method further comprises the step of controlling loss of moisture from the target zone of the substrate during step a. or during any period prior to step b. within which the target zone of the substrate is held at an elevated temperature.

46. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the composition is a biocidal composition, is a composition that imparts properties of higher density or strength to at least a target zone of the substrate, or a waterproofing composition.

47. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 46, wherein the composition is of a polymeric or pre-polymeric nature.

48. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the composition is an aqueous solution.

49. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 32, wherein the composition is applied to the substrate by one or more of dipping, deluging, spraying, or brushing.

50. (Currently amended) A method of delivering a composition to a lignocellulosic substrate the method comprising at least the steps of:

a. heating a target zone of the substrate using radio frequency energy or microwave energy, and

b. applying a composition to a surface of the substrate comprising or immediately adjacent to the target zone;

wherein the lignocellulosic substrate has an initial moisture content of less than or equal to substantially 15% as a weight proportion of dry weight and the composition is at a temperature below that of the target zone of the substrate.

51. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein the substrate is lumber.

52. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein the frequency of the radio frequency energy is substantially 100MHz or below.

53. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 52, wherein the frequency of the radio frequency energy is from substantially 27 MHz to substantially 40MHz.

54. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein the target zone of the substrate is heated to a temperature such that there is a temperature differential of at least approximately 80 degrees Celsius between the target zone and the composition at the time of application.

55. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 54, wherein the temperature differential is at least approximately 100 degrees Celsius.

56. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein the composition is applied at ambient temperature.

57. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein the target zone comprises a volume of the substrate including an area of the surface of the substrate to a depth of between substantially 0.1 cm and substantially 4 cm.

58. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein the target zone of the substrate is heated and held at an elevated temperature for a period of time prior to application of the composition.

59. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 58, wherein the substrate is held at an elevated temperature for a period of time sufficient to heat substantially the whole target zone to a substantially uniform temperature.

60. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 58, wherein the period is a time sufficient to sterilize at least the target zone of the substrate.

61. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein the method further comprises the step of controlling loss of moisture from the target zone of the substrate during step a. or during any period prior to step b. within which the target zone of the substrate is held at an elevated temperature.

62. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein the composition is a biocidal composition, a composition that imparts properties of higher density or strength to at least a target zone of the substrate, or a waterproofing composition.

63. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 62, wherein the composition is of a polymeric or pre-polymeric nature.

64. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein the composition is an aqueous solution.

65. (Previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 50, wherein the composition is applied to the substrate by one or more of dipping, deluging, spraying, or brushing.

66-85. (Canceled)